Approved for Release: 2020/10/27 C00309409

NO FOREIGN DISSEM [redacted] (b)(3)

DEC 10 1970

CIA VIA COURIER

[redacted] (b)(3)

10 DEC 1970

SUBJECT : American Center for Students and Artists in Paris, France. (RM)

REFERENCE: Your memorandum dated 20 October 1970, Subject as above.

1. [redacted] has reported that a lecture entitled "The Soledad Brothers Trial" was held at the American Center for Students and Artists in Paris, France, on 12 October 1970. Among the individuals present at the lecture were: Jean GENET; John THORNE, defense lawyer for the Soledad Brothers; Susan GEORGE; Victor HERBERT, American millionaire living in Paris and possibly connected with the Investors Overseas Service; James BALDWIN; and Ellen WRIGHT. (b)(1) (b)(3)

2. The lecture was given by John THORNE in English to a predominantly American audience, estimated at around 600. In his presentation, THORNE made the following points:

A. The Soledad Brothers are victims of the institution.

B. The killing of the guard was staged (THORNE explained that at the Soledad Prison, blacks and whites are kept segregated and are never allowed to mix. The guard was killed during an exercise break in which both blacks and whites were unexplainably allowed to exercise together).

C. Racial tensions were immensely high in the Soledad prison which set the stage for an incident.

D. THORNE contended that the jury should consist of some prisoners who could shed some insight on the actual conditions of prison life and interpret the actions in their true perspective.

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E. The only proof that the State has against Angela DAVIS is based on the fact that she signed her autograph at the request of the gun dealer who sold her the pistol. The other guns which she had bought some two or three years ago had been stolen and reported by DAVIS to the authorities.

F. The alacrity with which she was placed on the 10 most wanted list prejudices her chances for a fair trial since individuals on the list are usually considered armed and dangerous and by inference are guilty.

3. After this presentation, Jean GENET was invited to speak. James BALDWIN volunteered to act as interpreter for GENET. [redacted] either BALDWIN does not really understand French or simply did not want to interpret correctly, since he somewhat distorted remarks made by GENET and transformed his most casual observations as impassioned pleas for the liberation of the Soledad Brothers. For example, when GENET said the prison system in the United States is bad, BALDWIN interpreted this by saying the system is bad, that he as a Black man and son of a preacher, had suffered a great deal! BALDWIN recounted his conversation with Huey NEWTON and told of the injusticies NEWTON had been subjected to. His theme was "get rid of the Establishment." (b)(1) (b)(3)

4. After the lecture, a collection was taken, and 1000 French francs were donated.

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